

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910484964703321
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Titolo	Inspiration and Insanity in British Poetry : 1825–1855 // by Joseph Crawford
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Palgrave Macmillan, , 2019
ISBN	9783030216719 3030216713
Edizione	[1st ed. 2019.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (253 pages)
Collana	Palgrave Studies in Literature, Science and Medicine, , 2634-6443
Disciplina	820.8 821.709
Soggetti	Literature, Modern - 19th century Poetry Science - History Philosophy of mind Cognitive psychology Nineteenth-Century Literature Poetry and Poetics History of Science Philosophy of Mind Cognitive Psychology
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction -- 2. 'He was not one of ye': poetry and mental peculiarity, 1825-36 -- 3. 'Ah! let me not be fool'd': delusion and inspiration in the poems of Browning and Tennyson, 1832-40 -- 4. Sir William's last stand: poetry and insanity in England, 1837-42 -- 5. Seeing Things: Mesmerism, Spiritualism, and Romantic Poetry, 1836-55 -- 6. 'The Madness': inspiration and insanity in Spasmodic poetry, 1851-55 -- 7. Epilogue: 'It is strange.'
Sommario/riassunto	This book explores the ways in which poetic inspiration came to be associated with madness in early nineteenth-century Britain. By examining the works of poets such as Barrett, Browning, Clare,

Tennyson, Townshend, and the Spasmodics in relation to the burgeoning asylum system and shifting medical discourses of the period, it investigates the ways in which Britain's post-Romantic poets understood their own poetic vocations within a cultural context that insistently linked poetic talent with illness and insanity. Joseph Crawford examines the popularity of mesmerism among the writers of the era, as an alternative system of medicine that provided a more sympathetic account of the nature of poetic genius, and investigates the persistent tension, found throughout the literary and medical writings of the period, between the Romantic ideal of the poet as a transcendent visionary genius and the 'medico-psychological' conception of poets as mere case studies in abnormal neurological development.
